## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 ERDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-14 /101 W

-----088118 251507Z /41

R 251430Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8326 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

**UNCLAS KUWAIT 3454** 

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: JO, IS, XF
SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN ON PRESIDENT CARTER AND
ISRAELI NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

1. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY KUWAIT DAILY
AL QABAS (JUNE 23), JORDANIAN KING HUSSEIN REPORTEDLY
SAID THAT PRESIDENTS EISENHOWER AND CARTER WERE
ALIKE, IN THAT BOTH WERE ABLE TO SAY "NO" TO ISRAEL.
REFERRING TO PRESIDENT CARTER, THE KING REPORTEDLY
SAID: "HE...IMPRESSED ME TO A GREAT EXTENT WITH
HIS SINCERITY, TRUTHFULNESS AND COURAGE, AND HIS
INTENTION TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE SAKE OF
ESTABLISHING A JUST AND PERMANENT PEACE IN THIS PART
OF THE WORLD." THE KING ALSO EXPRESSED "CONFIDENCE THAT
HE (CARTER) WILL SAY NO (TO ISRAEL) WITH RESOLUTENESS IF
MATTERS DEVELOP IN AN ADVERSE WAY..."

2. AL QABAS ALSO REPORTED KING HUSSEIN AS HAVING EXPRESSED SEVERAL TIMES HIS BELIEF, BUT NOT CERTAINTY, THAT ISRAEL HAS HAD NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR "A LONG TIME" -- 1973 WAS MENTIONED -- IN RESPONSE TO A UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTER'S QUESTIONS. REACTING TO THE KING'S OBSERVATIONS ON ISRAELI NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, KUWAITI DAILY AL RAI AL AM (JUNE 25) SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR THE ARABS NOT TO HAVE BEGUN LONG AGO PREPARATIONS FOR PRODUCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AS ISRAEL DID IN "1956," BUT NOTED THAT NON-NUCLEAR FORCES CAN DEFEAT A NUCLEAR POWER (CITING VIETNAM) AND THAT NUCLEAR COMBAT IN "PALESTINE" IN UNTHINKABLE.

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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TAGS: ENRG, JO, IS, XF, (HUSSEIN I), (CARTER, JIMMY)

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